

Weekly Sampling Summary

6/20/2010

Venice Division

462 Total Air Samples Collected

1 Sample of Note

Since the beginning of this response, 462 air quality lab-analyzed samples have been collected (see map for locations). One sample of note collected on April 30 was identified. This sample indicated the presence of benzene, and the result has not been repeated.

In addition, EPA has been measuring air quality with real-time instruments, obtaining real-time estimates of air quality. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reviewed the results of EPA's sampling efforts and used information on the likely short term and long term health effects associated with these chemicals to determine whether pollutants in the air would be expected to cause health problems. The levels of some of the pollutants that have been reported to date may cause temporary eye, nose, or throat irritation, nausea, or headaches, but are not thought to be high enough to cause long-term harm. These effects should go away when levels go down or when a person leaves the area. The low levels that have been found are not expected to cause long term harm.

Air monitoring in the Venice Division is ongoing.

221 Total Surface Water Samples

3 Samples of Note

Since the beginning of the response, 221 surface water samples have been collected to monitor water quality. The area map shows the general location of sampling activities. Based on this data, there has been no indication of oil-related or dispersant-related contamination related to the oil spill. The "3 samples of note" showed low levels of Di-n-butyl phthalate, pyrene, and phenanthrene. These may be by-products of fuel exhaust.

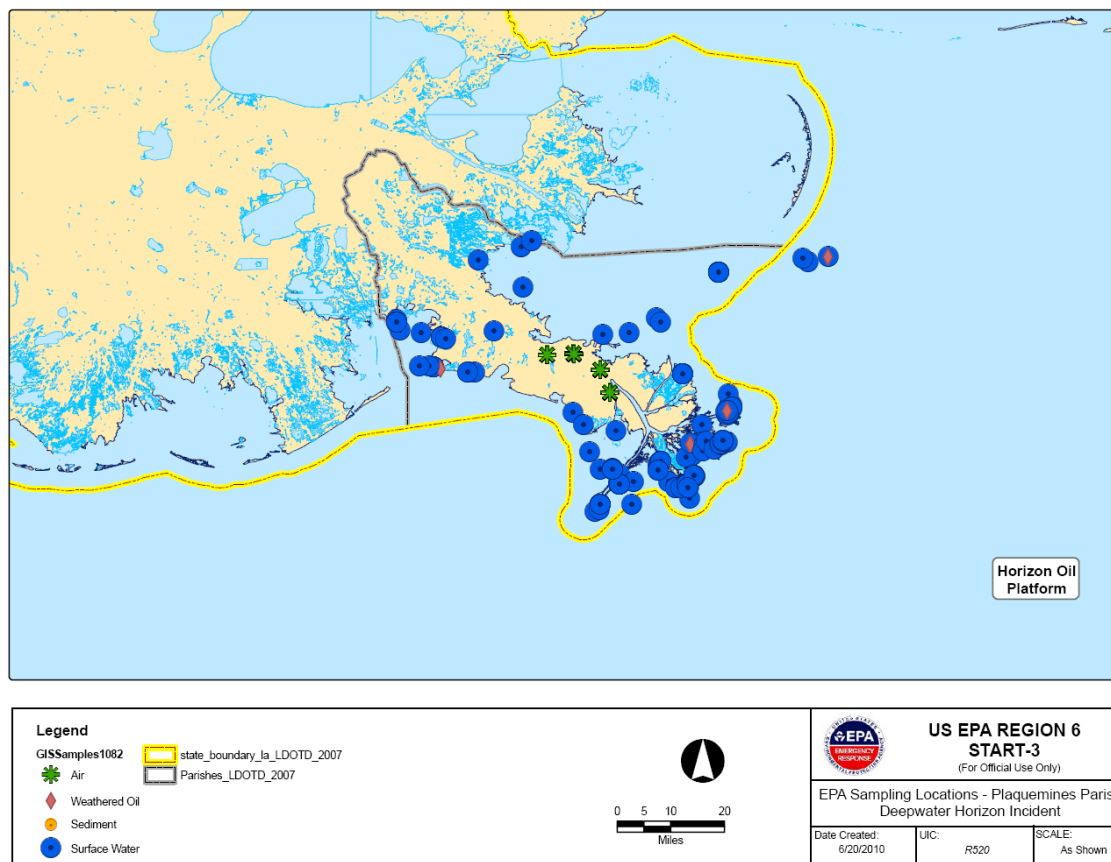
Water sampling in the Venice Division is ongoing.

28 Total Sediment Samples

6 Samples of Note

28 sediment samples were collected to characterize conditions of the sediment prior to the oil spill. Several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) were found, some at levels above the screening levels. PAHs are commonly found in sediments nation wide. No sediment samples have been taken post-spill.

More detailed information regarding this sampling is available at www.epa.gov/bpspill



Additional Notes:

- "Samples of Note" are limited to compounds which may be associated with the oil spill.
- EPA contaminant data are compared to benchmarks (e.g. NCCA) to determine the potential effects of contaminants on human health and aquatic life.
- Sampling locations are not necessarily representative of widespread coastal conditions.
- Visitors and residents should refer to state and local information for beach closure conditions in their area.
- In areas where contaminant levels exceed benchmarks, it is important to remember that historical contamination may exist in some sampling locations and may not be related to the BP spill.
- EPA, in partnership with states, oversees the National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA). NCCA reports describe the ecological and environmental conditions in U.S. coastal waters. When possible, EPA is comparing data collected during the BP spill response to the NCCA data. Sample results are also being compared to EPA water quality criteria guidelines and State water quality standards.
- EPA's sampling takes about 2-10 days to complete before the data can be posted on EPA's website (real-time air monitoring can be posted relatively more quickly—2-3 days-- than lab-analyzed samples—7-10 days).